75. Needs of the Neyyattinkara Municipality.

MR. A. P. NAYAR (*Municipal Council, Neyyattinkara*) pressed the need for an English Middle School for girls at Neyyattinkara. The same subject was represented at the previous session also. A large number of girls were studying in the boys' school, while there were many others who were unwilling to attend such schools. Neyyattinkara was an important town in area, population and revenue. The school should be opened from the beginning of the next academic year.

The Hospital building was not commodious. There was neither a pay ward nor an operation theatre. There were only one bed for caste Hindus and 2 beds for non-caste Hindus in the lying-in ward. There was only one common kitchen and that was in a dilapidated condition. The above defects should be removed at an early date.

The local English school was one of the important schools of the State, but there was no playground attached to it. The Director of Public Instruction had recommended the acquisition of a plot of ground away from the school. That was not desirable. The playground should be attached to the school, so that the games might be played under the supervision of the teachers. The place to the western side of the English and Vernacular schools might be acquired for the purpose. It was kept in a very insanitary condition.

The Cutcherry road was in disrepair due to the incessant motor traffic on it. It should be metalled at an early date.

The liquor shops in the town should be removed outside the municipal limits and located in thinly populated places. There was no doubt that the majority of the people would support the proposal and it would promote temperance to a greater degree than in Changanacherry where the experiment of local option was being tried.

There were no convenient bathing ghats in the river for men and women. The Municipality had no funds to do the work and hence the necesssity to approach the Government in the matter.

The motor traffic was rapidly increasing in the town and due to reckless and rash driving several accidents were being caused. To prevent the occurrence of such accidents and to ensure better safety to the pedestrians, the speed of motor vechicles within town limits should be limited to 6 miles per hour.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. A. P. Nayar, your first point is that there should be an English Middle School for girls. Government also feel the necessity for having separate schools for girls in places where there are girls in large numbers in mixed schools. But they would prefer private institutions being started.

With regard to the provision of a maternity and children's ward in the hospital, it has been reported that a trained nurse has been recently appointed in the hospital and there is no necessity for a separate maternity and children's ward. The present staff is quite sufficient. Your other suggestions will be noted.

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As regards the provision of a playground, it is a matter which is engaging the attention of Government. Some sites have been suggested and orders will be passed very soon.

The question of metalling the Cutcherry road will be referred to the Road Board.

As regards the removal of arrack and toddy shops from within the municipal limits, the answer I gave to the representations of other members that the result of an experiment that is being tried in Changanacherry is being watched will apply to this also.

An estimate has been sanctioned for the construction of bathing ghats in the Neyyar river and it is reported that the work is in progress.

With regard to the reduction of the speed of motor vehicles, there is already a rule that it shall not exceed 12 miles in a public place, 8 miles within the limits of a Police town and 6 miles near a school or a market. It is not desirable to reduce it further.

76. Needs of the Neyyattinkara taluk,

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara taluk, Group* I) spoke about the need for the restoration of minor irrigation works in the taluk. So far as the Neyyattinkara taluk was concerned, the chief sources of water supply were the irrigation tanks. But most of them were in a neglected condition and many had been registered away. On a rough estimate prepared some time back, there were 875 tanks in the taluk. It was regrettable that the Government had selected only 136 tanks for restoration and, even of those 136, only 40 had been actually restored. In selecting the tanks for restoration no principle was followed, such as their usefulness or necessity. The selection was made at the whims and fancies of the officers responsible. The way in which the restoration work was carried out was also not satisfactory. If those things were brought to the notice of the Government, the representations were not given due weight and consideration as wanting in technical knowledge. The same was the case in regard to new schemes suggested by the agriculturists. A dam across the Neyyar at Aruvikkara would be useful to irrigate a large extent of paddy lands. That scheme was investigated by the Government and given up; but the agriculturists still believed in its usefulness and hence the repeated representations at the Assembly and elsewhere. In the same way, the Kottukal eastern channel was completed, but the western channel was given up. The work finished was practically of no use. After the completion of the Kodayar Project, no irrigation work worth the name had been undertaken by the Government. It showed the indifferent attitude of the Government in regard to the development of irrigational sources. But the member hoped that the new regime would inaugurate a new era of irrigational schemes. The Aruvikara scheme and the Kodayar Right Bank channel scheme on which an expenditure of about Rs. 3 lakhs had been incurred should be taken up for reconsideration and investigated.

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